United Nations A/C.4/58/L.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
22 September 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/58/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session (A/58/100 and Add.1).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls on each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the fifty-eighth session should recess not later than Tuesday, 16 December 2003, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Friday, 7 November 2003 (see A/58/250, para. 10).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that it may be revised periodically, as appropriate, according to the availability of related documents. The Committee will also combine consideration of specific items on its agenda in order to ensure ful' and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, conference services has allocated 25 meetings to this Committee and it urges the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted time. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below. There will be little possibility of servicing informal consultations, working groups or meetings of regional or other groups of Member States. It is essential that available conference services be utilized to the fullest extent.

03-52663 (E) 220903

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	29 September — p.m.
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 19)	6 October — p.m. 7 October — p.m. 8 October — p.m. 9 October — p.m. 10 October — p.m.
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 87) Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 88) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 89) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section D) (item 12) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 90)	
Effects of atomic radiation (item 81)	13 October — a.m. 14 October — a.m.
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 85)	15 October — a.m. 16 October — a.m. 17 October — a.m.
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 82)	20 October — p.m. 21 October — p.m. 22 October — p.m. 23 October — p.m.
Questions relating to information (item 86)	27 October — p.m. 28 October — p.m. 29 October — p.m.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 83)	30 October — p.m. 31 October — p.m. 3 November — a.m.
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 84)	4 November — a.m. 5 November — a.m. 6 November — a.m. 7 November — a.m.

5. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 19, 87, 88, 89 and 12 and 90 and individual debates on agenda items 81 to 86, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) In accordance with established procedure, the General Assembly is expected to take up in plenary meetings the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 19) as a whole following the completion of its consideration of other decolonization items allocated to it and after the Committee has completed that aspect of its work for the session;

(c) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items;

(d) Bodies and individuals having an interest in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 32) will be heard in the Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meetings.

6. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering agenda items 19, 87, 88, 89 and 12 and 90 be closed on Monday, 6 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take decisions relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Committee wishes also to draw attention to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/58/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the General Assembly's decision that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., both for all plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the fifty-eighth session. It was also decided that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees adjourn by 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and that no meetings should be held on weekends (see A/58/250, para. 11). Members' attention is also drawn to the Assembly's decision to waive at this session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/58/250, para. 13).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes.

10. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement, in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

Notes

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/58/251.

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General Assembly

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26 September 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

03-52663* (E) 260903

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
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Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section D) (item 12)	
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Notes

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/58/251.

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General Assembly

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8 October 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 90
Offers by Members States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Algeria, Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/134 of 11 December 2002,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[1] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

[1] A/58/71.

03-54855 (E) 081003

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 19
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Question of Gibraltar

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 57/526 of 11 December 2002, and recalling at the same time that the statement agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Brussels on 27 November 1984,[1] stipulates, inter alia, the following:

> "The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution",

takes note of the fact that, as part of this process, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Spain and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hold annual meetings alternately in each country, the most recent of which were held in Barcelona on 20 November 2001 and in London on 4 February 2002, and urges both Governments to continue their negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

[1] A/39/732, annex.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 19
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Fiji, Grenada, Haiti, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 57/135 of 11 December 2002,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991) by which the Security Council approved the settlement plan[1] for Western Sahara,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1359 (2001) as well as resolution 1429 (2002) and resolution 1495 (2003), in which the Council expressed its strong support of the Peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,[2]

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

[1] See S/21360 and S/22464 and Corr.1.
[2] S/2003/565, annex II.

03-55108 (E) 091003

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in accordance with the proposal made by the Secretary-General,[3] and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Underlining, in this regard, the validity of the settlement plan,[1] while noting the fundamental differences between the parties in its implementation,

Stressing that the lack of progress in the settlement of the dispute on Western Sahara continues to cause suffering to the people of Western Sahara, remains a source of potential instability in the region and obstructs the economic development of the Maghreb region and that, in view of this, the search for a political solution is critically needed,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[4]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for their outstanding efforts and the two parties for the spirit of cooperation they have shown in the support they provide for those efforts;

3. *Continues to support strongly* the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and similarly support their Peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara[2] as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties;

4. *Calls upon* the parties to work with the United Nations and with each other towards acceptance and implementation of the Peace plan;[2]

5. *Also calls upon* all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara;

7. *Takes note* of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 1349 (2001); resolution 1359 (2001); resolution 1429 (2002); and resolution 1495 (2003);

8. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in its efforts to solve the problem of the fate of the people unaccounted for, and calls on the parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to release without further delay all those held since the start of the conflict;

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[3] See A/58/171.

[4] A/58/23 (Part II), chap. VIII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/58/23).

9. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/C.4/58/L.5

General Assembly

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10 October 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 81
Effects of atomic radiation

Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 57/115 of 11 December 2002, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Scientific Committee,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-eighth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Noting with satisfaction that some Member States have expressed particular interest in becoming members of the Scientific Committee, and expressing its intention to consider the issue further at its next session,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

03-55346 (E) 101003

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-eight years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and invites the Scientific Committee to submit its programme of work to the General Assembly;

4. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports;

9. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of ionizing radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

10. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly;

11. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to review and strengthen the present funding of the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 57/115, so that the Committee can discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly;

12. *Emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report can reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States.